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OF  
JESUS·CHRIST

MARY·F·ROLT







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# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

WRITTEN FOR JOHN AND DAVID

BY

MARY F. ROLT

WITH COLOURED FRONTISPICE

LONDON

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING  
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

NEW YORK AND TORONTO: THE MACMILLAN CO.

*Printed in Great Britain*

<i>First published</i>	-	-	-	1923
<i>New edition</i>	-	-	-	1925
<i>Reprinted</i>	-	-	-	1929

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# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## I

### MARY AND THE ANGEL GABRIEL

ONCE upon a time there was a woman whose name was Mary, and she lived in a little village called Nazareth. She was very good, and she used to say her prayers to God, just as you do now, when you get up in the morning and when you go to bed.

One day she was saying her prayers, when suddenly there was a wonderful light, and she saw a beautiful Angel standing near her.

At first she was frightened, because she had never seen an Angel before, and she did not know why he had come. Angels are God's messengers, and, you see, God wanted to send a message to Mary, so He sent one of His Angels to her.

This Angel's name was Gabriel ; and Gabriel saw that Mary was frightened, so he told her she need not be afraid, because God was very pleased with her, and He was going to send her a little Baby Boy, and she was to call Him

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus. He was God's own Son, and God wanted Joseph, who was going to marry Mary, to help her take care of Him.

That was God's message, and Mary was very happy, and she went to tell her cousin about her wonderful message from God.

Now, her cousin's name was Elizabeth.

When Mary told her that God was going to send her a little Baby Boy, Elizabeth said God had promised her a little baby boy too, and he was to be called John.

And this made them both so happy that they sang a Hymn to God, to show Him how glad they were.

Mary stayed in Elizabeth's house for a little while, and then she went home and waited for her little Baby to come.

## II

### BABY JESUS

*St. Luke ii. 4-7.*

ONE day, Mary had to go on a journey with Joseph.

Joseph used to take care of Mary as your Daddy takes care of your Mummy.

They had a long way to go, and there were no trains or trams, so they had to walk or ride on donkeys or camels. The men would walk,

## BABY JESUS

and the women rode on the donkeys. It took a long time to go anywhere, because donkeys went very slowly, and sometimes they travelled many days before they came to the end of their journey.

This time they went from Nazareth, where they lived, to a place called Bethlehem. They had been on the road all day, and when they got to Bethlehem Mary was very tired, and Joseph went to the inn, which was the house where strangers stayed, to see if he could find a room for Mary.

But the innkeeper told him he had no room. Then Joseph wondered what he could do for Mary, and he found there was a nice stable where the oxen generally lived (but it was nice and clean), so he took Mary there and made her comfortable.

While she was staying there God sent her that little Baby Boy He had promised her.

She had no cradle such as you had when God sent you to your Mummy ; so Mary used the manger, where the oxen used to feed, and she put her Baby Boy there.

And she called His name Jesus, as the Angel Gabriel had told her.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## III

### THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS

*St. Luke ii. 8.*

WELL, a long time ago, when Baby Jesus was at Bethlehem, there were some shepherds taking care of their sheep. They had no dogs to help them. They used to take them out into the fields and stay with them, and take care of them all day and all night.

One night, when it was getting dark, some shepherds were sitting in a field, and I expect they were talking about their sheep. The stars had come out, and the shepherds were very tired, when suddenly there was a beautiful light, and they looked up and saw an Angel.

You remember that Angels sometimes came with messages from God ; and this Angel had a message from Him for the shepherds. But they were frightened as Mary was when Gabriel came ; for they had never seen an Angel before. But the Angel was very kind, and when he saw they were frightened, he said : “Don’t be afraid, for I have good news for you, which will make you very happy.” Then he told them how a little Baby Boy, Who was Christ

## STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS

the Lord, had come that day, and that He was lying in a manger, in a stable.

Suddenly the shepherds heard voices singing, and it was the Angels of Heaven singing glad songs to God about His little Boy Jesus.

Then the Angels went away from them, back into Heaven ; and the shepherds said to each other : “Now let us go to Bethlehem and see this Baby whom God has sent.”

So they hurried away, and they found, just as the Angel had said, Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, Who was lying in a manger.

## IV

### THE WISE MEN

*St. Matt. ii.*

ONCE upon a time there was a cruel King called Herod.

One day some Wise Men came to the place where he lived, and asked his people if they could tell them where Jesus was. They wanted to go and see Him and take Him presents, because they had heard that He was a King.

King Herod was jealous, because the people called Jesus a King, and he did not want any-

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

one to be King except himself. But Jesus was King of Heaven, and Herod was only a King in the world.

So Herod sent for the Wise Men, and he told them they were to go and find Jesus, and then they were to come and tell him where Jesus was. King Herod said he wanted to go and see Him, too.

God sent a beautiful star to guide them to where Jesus lay.

The Wise Men followed it, until at last the star stood over where Jesus was. There they found Him, in a manger; and they knelt in front of Him and gave Him beautiful presents, which they had carried a very long way for Him.

Then God sent a message to the Wise Men, in a dream, and the message was that they must not go back to King Herod, but go home another way.

So they obeyed God, and went to their own country, and never told King Herod what he wanted to know about Baby Jesus' home.

## JOSEPH'S DREAM

### V

#### JOSEPH'S DREAM

ONE night Joseph had a dream, and in it there was a message from God. The message said that Joseph must get up and take Mary and Baby Jesus away, because King Herod was looking for Him to kill Him ; and Joseph must keep Mary and her Baby away till God told them to come back.

So Joseph got up and told Mary about his dream, and she began to get little Baby Jesus ready for a journey, while Joseph went to find a donkey for her to ride on.

When he had found a donkey, he brought it very quietly to the door, and it was in the middle of the night, and everything was very quiet, because all the other people were asleep.

Mary got on the donkey, and carried her Baby in her arms, and Joseph led the donkey, and away they went very quietly out of King Herod's country into a safe place.

God hasn't told us very much about that journey, but it was a long one. and it was not easy in those days.

In that country people did not wear shoes

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

and stockings as we do, because the sun shines nearly every day, so they would have been too hot. Some of the people wore sandals, but many of them walked with nothing on their feet. So the soles of their feet got quite used to the roads and stones, and it was no trouble to walk through water.

Joseph and Mary and Baby Jesus lived in a country called Egypt, where they could be quite safe from naughty King Herod.

King Herod sent men to kill all the tiny babies in Bethlehem, hoping that he would kill Jesus among them. But God had taken Jesus away. When this naughty King died, God sent another message, in a dream, to Joseph, to tell him it was safe for him to take Mary and Jesus back to their own country. But Joseph was afraid of Herod's son, the new King, and he did not want to take them into his country. So he took them to a little village called Nazareth—and that was Jesus' home.

# JESUS' HOME AT NAZARETH

## VI

### JESUS' HOME AT NAZARETH

You remember in one story that some people called Jesus a King? He was a King, but He used to live in Joseph's house and it was quite a little house, not like those our Kings live in. Our Kings live in great big houses, called Palaces, with lots of servants to wait on them. But Jesus was not at all rich: He had no servants in His little house; and though He was a King, nobody called Him that.

You see, He was King of Heaven, so His servants lived in Heaven. They were the Angels, and we know He used them sometimes, because when He wanted messages taken to people in the world, He sent His Angels with them.

But He Himself lived in a very little house, and His Mother did all the work. She used to look after Him and Joseph, and do the cooking and everything. As Jesus grew bigger He learned to help her.

In those days there was one special way little boys could help their Mothers, and it was this: the houses had no water-taps in them as

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

we have. When we want water, we turn a tap and water runs out. But in Jesus' home there were no taps, and when His Mother wanted water, she would have to go and fetch it from a well outside, in a big jar made of a heavy kind of earthenware. So I expect Jesus used to help His Mother by going and carrying her water for her.

And when you want to be like Jesus, you must try and think how you can help your Mummy and do things for her as He did for His dear Mother.

You see, Jesus came down into the world because nobody knew how to be good, and He was always good. He did not want only to show grown-ups how to be good, but little boys and little girls too. So He started at the very beginning, and He was a tiny Baby, and as He grew each day into a bigger Boy, He showed all the other little boys and girls how to be good and obedient and useful.

# JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

## VII

### JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

*St. Luke ii. 41.*

ONE day, when Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary had to go on a long journey to Jerusalem to a big service. The journey was going to take them many days, and the Daddies and Mummies took their bigger boys and girls with them. Jesus was becoming a big Boy, so He went with Joseph and Mary and they stayed a little while in Jerusalem, before they started home.

Now, there were a great many people going home that day, and I expect Jesus had made lots of friends on the journey ; so when Joseph and Mary were ready to start, they thought Jesus was with His friends, ready too.

But He was not ; and Joseph and Mary travelled all day, and in the evening they looked for Jesus, perhaps to put Him to bed. He was not there, so they began to be very anxious, and they told their friends they were going back to Jerusalem to look for Him.

So they started off, and when they got back to Jerusalem they looked along the streets and

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

in the houses, wherever they had been, and for three days they could not find Him anywhere. Mary must have been very unhappy, because Mummies do not like losing their little children. Then they went to look in the Temple, which was like a big and very beautiful church, where the Teachers used to teach the people, as our clergy teach us now. There they found the Teachers sitting round listening to somebody and asking questions; and when Joseph and Mary went further in, whom do you think they saw, standing in front of all those old men? The little Boy Jesus! But He was not really very little, though perhaps sometimes Mary used to forget He was becoming a big Boy now.

There He was, listening to those old Teachers, and asking them questions, and telling them such wonderful things.

They were very surprised because He knew such a lot, and He was able to answer their questions.

Do you know why He was able to tell them so much?

Well, what He told them was about God, and you remember that God was His own Father.

Now, you know a lot about your own Daddy, and could tell stories about him to people who

## JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

have never seen him, and tell them lots of things they do not know, couldn't you? So, you see, Jesus, being God's own Son, could tell them about His own Father. But Mary, when she saw Jesus, went up to Him and asked Him why He had not come away with her, and told Him that she and Joseph had been very anxious, looking for Him.

I expect she was puzzled by what He had done. But Jesus said : "Why did you look for Me? Did you not know that I should be in My Father's House?"

You see, He was thinking of God as His Father, and why God had sent Him into the world. He knew God meant Him to be always teaching people how to be good, and about God, and Mary did not know what He meant.

But she remembered what He said, and she thought about it, just as your Mummy thinks of what you say and keeps it all in her mind.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## VIII

### JESUS AND JOHN

Do you remember who the other little baby boy was whom God had promised to his Mother just about the same time as He promised Jesus to Mary?

His name was John, and his Mother's name was Elizabeth.

Now, Baby John came a little while before Baby Jesus, and he used to go about telling people about Him before the people saw Jesus, and he was a great friend of His.

We do not know much more about Jesus' life for some years, but we know that He lived with Joseph and Mary, and that though He lived in a tiny house in a little village, He found lots to do to help everybody.

All the time He remembered He was God's Son, and He never forgot the reason He came —to show people how to be good. Because He was God's Son He knew what was going to happen to Him in a way you and I could never know. Because you and I don't know what is going to happen to-morrow and next month and next year. God does not mean us to know. But His own Son was different.

## JESUS AND JOHN

So Jesus stayed with Mary till He was thirty years old, and then He started to go about teaching people and helping them, and healing those who were ill, and showing everybody how to be good.

The rest of our stories will tell us the way He taught people about God, and showed them how to love each other.

## IX

### THE STORY OF THE WATERPOTS

*St. John ii. 1-11.*

WHEN Jesus was a little Boy, He was very good, and as He grew into a bigger Boy, and then became a young Man, He had many friends who loved Him, and who tried to be like Him.

Now, His Mother, Mary, knew that He was not quite like other young men, because He was God's own Son ; but the rest of the people in the world did not think so much of that as she did. You see, they had not seen and heard Gabriel, the Angel who came to tell her about Him, before He came.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Well, when Jesus was a big Man, He and His Mother were invited to a wedding party. Two people whom they knew were going to be married at a place called Cana, and Mary and Jesus went to the wedding, and their friends with them.

Perhaps you have been to a wedding already, or, if not, you will go some day, and perhaps after the service there will be a party, and the bride and bridegroom will speak to all their friends, and there will be food to eat, and wine to drink their health in.

In those days, when Jesus was in the world, they had the same sort of party, but they called it a "feast." At this special marriage feast there were a lot of people, and the Ruler of the Feast had ordered food and wine for them all. But before the feast was over, the wine ran short, and the servants did not know what to do. Perhaps Mary heard them talking of it; anyhow, she knew what had happened, and she turned to Jesus and said :

"They have no wine."

Then she said to the servants :

"Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now, in those days people used to fetch their water from wells, in large earthenware pots, and then pour it from the large pots into smaller ones. The servants at this wedding had six

## STORY OF THE WATERPOTS

of the large earthenware pots on the ground for water. Jesus said to them :

“ Fill the waterpots with water,” and they filled them up to the brim.

They must have wondered why Jesus said water, when He knew it was wine they wanted ! But they were obedient ; they did exactly what He told them. And you shall hear what happened.

When they had filled these big pots with water, Jesus told them to go and draw from them, and take what they drew to the Ruler of the Feast. So they went with their little pots and filled them, and when they poured them out, instead of water there came wine !

Now, when the Ruler of the Feast had tasted the wine, which Jesus had made out of water, he knew it was much better than what he had ordered, and he did not understand where it could have come from. So he sent for the bridegroom, and told him how clever he thought he had been to use the poor wine first, and keep the best for the end. But it wasn’t the bridegroom who had done it, was it ? It was Jesus. But only He and the servants knew that.

Now, this was the first miracle Jesus did. Later in this book you will hear of wonderful works He did, which are called Miracles. It is a rather difficult word, but it is worth learn-

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

ing, because it belongs especially to Jesus. And we shall learn to know Him and to love Him when we read of His miracles.

He wants all His children to be obedient, and to do exactly what they are told, even when they do not understand why. For those servants did not understand, did they? and how He helped them.

## X

### THE FISHERMEN'S BOATS

I WONDER if you have ever been to the seaside? If you have, did you see the fishermen?—such strong, brown-faced men, who wear blue jerseys and funny little round hats. And their boats and nets, which they use to catch fish in?

Sometimes you will see those nets hung out to dry, and one of the fishermen looking at his net to see if it wants mending.

A long, long time ago, when Jesus was living in the world, there were fishermen who used to go out with big nets, to catch fish for people to eat—just as they do now, by the seaside. Jesus made great friends with these fishermen, and loved them very much, and they loved Him

## THE FISHERMEN'S BOATS

too. He understood all about their work, and used to see them mending their nets when they were broken, and watched them out on the sea.

You see, Jesus spent a lot of His time by the seaside, talking to people, and the fishermen used to lend Him their boats sometimes when He wanted them.

Can you guess why Jesus wanted a boat? Not to fish from! Well, you see, when He was telling the people about His Father, they liked it so much that they used to tell all their friends to come and listen to His wonderful stories, and so more and more people came each time.

At last there was such a crowd round Jesus that He had hardly any room to stand. Then He asked one of His fishermen friends to lend Him a boat, and He would push off a little way from the land.

Jesus knew that, though He was further away from the people, they would be able to hear His voice, because water carries people's voices so clearly.

So there He would sit in the boat, teaching all those people on the shore.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XI

### THE STORY OF THE FISHES

*St. Luke v. 4.*

ONE day Jesus had been teaching the people from a boat, and the boat belonged to a fisherman called Simon.

Now, Simon and two other fishermen, James and John, who went out with him, had been out all that night, and they had caught no fish. Worse than that, they had torn their nets, so when they came home, tired and disappointed, they had to set to work to mend them.

As they were doing so Jesus came by, and asked Simon to lend Him his boat so that He might teach the people from it.

When He had finished teaching, He turned to Simon and said : “ Go out into deep water and put down your nets for the fish.”

Poor Simon ! That was what he had been doing all night, but he had caught no fish at all.

So he said to Jesus : “ Master, we have been fishing all night and have caught nothing ; but we will do what You say.”

You see, he loved Jesus, and he knew that

## THE STORY OF THE FISHES

Jesus knows everything, and so He would really know about the night without Simon telling Him. And Simon knew that Jesus would not tell him to put his net down again for no reason.

So he called James and John, and they went out and let down their nets again.

This time so many fish came into their nets that these broke, and the three fishermen could not pull the nets in, they were so heavy. They had to call to fishermen in the other boats, and ask them to come and help.

Even Simon was surprised, though he knew how wonderful Jesus was, and James and John had never seen anything like that before.

You see, Jesus had sent all those fishes into the net. Nobody else could. He always helped His friends by doing something for them, and He knew Simon and James and John were disappointed at catching no fish. Also, He wanted to teach them that He was God's Son, and could do everything.

And what do you think Simon and James and John did to show Him they loved Him?

When they had brought in their boats, they left them behind, and followed Jesus ; so wherever He went, they went with Him.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XII

### THE WIDOW OF NAIN

*St. Luke vii.*

ONE day Jesus and His Disciples went to a city called Nain, and many people followed them. Do you know why people followed Jesus wherever He went? Perhaps it was because some of them had begun to love Him, and when you love someone you like to be near him, don't you? Others had heard of Him and seen Him do very wonderful things, and they followed to see if He would do any more. So by the time Jesus came to Nain there was a crowd of people with Him.

Now, just as He was going into Nain, a procession of people were coming slowly out, and He met them. It was a very sad procession, for in the middle of it was a very unhappy Mother. Her husband was dead, and her only son had now died, and she was taking his body out to bury it.

In those days, when people were buried, they did not have carriages, as you see now, driving through our streets very slowly, and everybody wearing black. When Jesus was living on earth

## THE WIDOW OF NAIN

the people lived much more simply. They were just as sad when their loved ones died, but they did not wear black clothes or drive in black coaches. They carried the one who had died in a kind of long, wooden bed, and four of their men friends took a corner each. So they walked out to the place where the grave was.

This poor Mother was very, very sad, and she was crying. She had nobody left. Her friends had come with her, and they were very sad too. Now, when Jesus saw her, He knew why she was sad and crying, and He went to her at once and told her not to cry. And He went up to her dead son, and the people who were carrying him stood still at once. Then He said : “Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.” That means, “I tell you to get up.”

A very wonderful thing happened. The young man, whom everybody knew had died, suddenly got up, and began to speak! And Jesus gave him back to his Mother.

Then all the people who were there knew that Jesus was God, because nobody else can make people, who have died, live again. So they said to each other : “God has come down to see us.”

How happy and thankful that Mother must have been, as Mummies are now when their

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

little boys and girls have been very, very ill, and God allows the doctor to make them quite well again.

Well, when we see people unhappy and sad, we can't give them what they want always, but very often we can help them a little bit. Jesus was sorry for that Mother, and He went and helped her, and you and I can be like Him in that, though we cannot give back life.

We can remember always to be sorry for people, and not to pass by and take no notice when we hear a little one cry or see somebody hurt or sad. We can help them by showing how sorry we are, and by giving them a smile and a squeeze of our hand. Some day, when you grow older, God will show you other ways in which you can help older people, for nearly everybody wants helping at some time, and Jesus wants us all to take our share in His work of making everybody happy.

# THE NAUGHTY WOMAN

## XIII

### THE WOMAN WHO HAD NOT ALWAYS BEEN GOOD

WHEN Jesus was going about teaching there were some people, called Scribes and Pharisees, who were very jealous of Him, because the people listened to Him more than they did to them. So these men used to try and find reasons for making Him do or say something wrong or unfair. They hoped in this way they would be able to make the people angry with Him.

One day, when He was teaching, the Pharisees brought a poor woman to Him, and told Him they knew all about her, and that she was very naughty. And they said : "In our law it says we are to throw stones at people who are naughty in this way ; but what do You say?"

Now, they said this because they knew Jesus was very kind to everybody, and so He would never let people be stoned. Yet they thought if He said, "No : don't stone her," they could say He was not obedient to their law, and then perhaps they would be able to make a reason for taking Him to prison.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

But Jesus did not answer at all at first. So they asked Him again whether they were to stone her.

Think how it hurts to have stones thrown at you! The poor woman must have been so frightened as she waited there to hear what Jesus was going to say.

At last Jesus said : “ The person among you who is quite good, and is never naughty, may throw the first stone at this woman.”

Then the Pharisees knew He was too clever for them. Because, you see, nobody is *quite* good and never naughty except Jesus Himself ; and they knew that they had been naughty very often, and perhaps they thought to themselves that being jealous of Him was being naughty. So what do you think they did?

They knew they could not throw stones, because they were none of them good, so they walked away one by one, till there were only Jesus and the woman left.

Then Jesus looked up, and He was very kind to her, and He told her He would forgive her, and she was to go home and not be naughty any more.

How happy she must have been to hear Jesus' gentle voice, and to be told she was free to go away unhurt!

Then she went away, and she learned to

## THE NAUGHTY WOMAN

know and love Jesus, and to call Him her Friend.

When you and I are naughty we can go and kneel down and shut our eyes and think about Jesus, and tell Him we are sorry. He is always so kind and gentle, and He knows just what we are thinking, and if He sees we are really sorry He will forgive us ; and we must go away, like that woman, and not be naughty any more.

## XIV

### THE STORM ON THE LAKE

ONE evening, after Jesus had been teaching the people all day by the side of the Lake, He was very tired ; and He sent the people away, and asked some of His fishermen friends to take Him across the Lake, to the other side.

So He got into their boat, just as He was, and sat in the back part of it, which is called the stern.

Now, Jesus was so tired that He lay down and went to sleep on a pillow.

Suddenly the wind got up and blew very hard, and the waves grew very big and beat against the sides of Jesus' boat, and as they

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

beat it they came over the side, and gradually the boat became full of water!

You know what happens then, don't you?

As a boat fills with water, it sinks lower and lower into the sea, till at last it goes right under!

So Jesus' friends in the boat were frightened ; and they went to Him and woke Him and said : "Save us ! Save us ! or we shall be drowned !"

They knew He could save them, but they thought, as He was asleep, He had forgotten them.

But Jesus never forgets people like that. It is only we, His friends, who think such a thing could happen.

Well, when they woke Him, He got up and told the waves to be quiet, and the wind to stop blowing, and at once everything became calm and still.

Then He turned to His friends and said : "Why were you afraid?" He knew really ; but He wanted to show them that it made Him sorry when people did not trust Him.

I wonder what you and I would have felt like if we had been in that boat, and saw Jesus stand up and heard Him speak to the waves and the wind, and saw them obey His word. I expect we should be rather afraid, because nobody else can do anything so wonderful, and

## THE STORM ON THE LAKE

we should feel Jesus was very, very great, and very good.

Well, those friends of His, though they knew He was God's own Son, sometimes forgot it; and they were afraid that evening. They said to each other: "Who can this be? For even the wind and the waves obey Him."

You and I know Who He was, don't we? Jesus, God's Son, Who is always watching us and taking care of us, though we can't see Him.

Sometimes people say it is not any use saying their prayers, because Jesus does not give them what they want at once. Perhaps they think He is asleep, as those fishermen did, and that when He doesn't answer, He has forgotten them.

But what He wants us to believe, when we read the story, is that if we trust Him and love Him He will never forget us, and will always help us.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XV

### THE WOMAN IN THE CROWD

*St. Mark v. 22-34.*

IF you were asked what sort of life Jesus lived when He was on earth, what would you say, I wonder? Shall I tell you what one good answer would be? A life spent in making ill people well, and sad people happy. Try to remember the stories in this little book which tell of those two things in Jesus' life, and see if you don't think that a good answer.

Now, to-day I have another wonderful story about Him making somebody well.

Jesus was on the side of the Sea of Galilee where He so often used to teach His friends. This time He had some of His Disciples with Him. Perhaps they had rowed Him across in their boat. There was a large crowd of people, which had collected when it became known that He was there.

Among all the people there was a poor woman who had been ill a great many years. She had been to many doctors, and spent all her money on trying to get well, but nobody could do her any good, and she was getting

## THE WOMAN IN THE CROWD

worse instead of better. She had heard wonderful stories of Jesus : of how He had made blind people see and lame people walk, and she believed that if only she could get near Him and touch His clothes, she would be well.

So she joined the crowd round Him that day, and worked her way through till she came close to Him ; then she touched the hem of His garment.

Then a wonderful thing happened. She had believed if she could do this she would be made well ; and that is exactly what happened ! She felt at once that she was healed of her illness. Now, Jesus knows all of us, each one separately, and, though there are so many hundreds and thousands of Mummies and Daddies and little boys and little girls, He never forgets any of us ; He knows all our names and all our homes, and He never treats us just like a large crowd of people, and nothing more.

So when that poor woman touched Him, He knew she had done so, and He knew also that He had made her well. He turned round and said :

“ Who touched My clothes ? ”

His Disciples wondered at Jesus saying that, when there were hundreds of people pushing and jostling each other to get close to Him. They thought there must have been many

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

people who had touched His garments. So they said :

“ You see all these people crowding round You, and You ask who touched You? ”

But Jesus knew that someone had specially tried to touch Him, for a reason, and He looked round to see who it was. Then the poor woman began to be rather frightened, and she came and fell down before Him, and told Him what she had done. Then Jesus was very kind and gentle with her, and told her it was because she had really believed in Him that He had made her well, and He sent her away quite happy.

So you see that if only you and I really believe that God can make us good, and able to stop saying and doing unkind things, then He will do so. When we say our prayers in the morning let us always think what is going to be most difficult for us to do well that day, and then think to ourselves : “ God *can* help me, and if I ask Him He *will* ” ; and then ask Him to make us strong and good, and you will find when the time comes that you thought it would be difficult to be good, it will be quite easy ! Because, you see, Jesus always helps the people who believe in Him.

## JAIRUS' LITTLE GIRL

### XVI

#### JAIRUS' LITTLE GIRL

*St. Mark v. 22-34*

THE same day that Jesus made that poor woman in the crowd well, He did another wonderful thing, which you shall hear about now. When the crowd was pressing round Him there came a great man, called Jairus. He, too, had heard about Jesus, and, as he was in trouble, he came himself to ask His help.

He only had one little girl, and she was very, very ill. She was twelve years old, and poor Jairus was so unhappy, because he knew she was dying. But he knew something else, and that was that if only Jesus would come and lay His hands upon her she would live. He had heard how Jesus had done things like that before, and he wanted Him to come to his little girl very much. So Jairus found Him, and, in the crowd, he knelt down and begged Him to come to his house.

It was while Jesus was going with him that He made the poor woman in the crowd well.

Have you ever watched a large crowd of people moving? You will know, if you have, that they go very slowly. This crowd, I

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

expect, went slowly, for before very long there came a messenger from Jairus' house to Jairus, who said :

“ Your little girl is dead ; why do you trouble Jesus to come ? ”

Poor Jairus ! But Jesus said :

“ Be not afraid ; only believe ; ” and they went on to Jairus' house. When they got there, there were many people crying and talking, and Jesus said :

“ Do not cry ; she is not dead, but sleeping.”

The people laughed at Him, for they thought they knew better than He did, and that she was dead. But He told them all to go away except Jairus and his wife, the little girl's Daddy and Mummy ; and three of His friends —Peter, James and John. Those five people went with Jesus into the room where the little girl lay, and left everybody else outside.

Then Jesus took her hand, and said :

“ Maid, arise.” That means, “ Little girl, get up.”

At once the little girl got up and walked, and He told them to give her something to eat.

You see, when people die, what really happens is that God calls what is known as their “ spirit ” to Paradise. The body is left here, and some day they will have new bodies up in Heaven.

## JAIRUS' LITTLE GIRL

That little girl's spirit had gone to Paradise, and only one Person could bring it back.

Who was that Person? Jesus, because He is the King of Heaven, you see. So He called her spirit back, and gave her to her Daddy and Mummy again.

So, you see, this time Jesus made ill people well and sad people happy both at once. You and I can't do that. But we can try to be like Him in one way, for very often we can make sad people happy by doing what they ask us, or trying to find out how we can help them.

## XVII

### THE STORY OF THE LOAVES AND FISHES

ONE day Jesus was talking to His friends and listening to many things they had to tell Him, and there were so many people about that He asked His Apostles to come away with Him into a quieter place.

So they got into a boat and went away from everybody.

But when all the people of the place saw Him going, they did not want to be left behind at

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

all. They had learned so much from Him, and they loved listening to all He had to say ; so some started to run and others to walk, because they could not all get boats ; and some of them ran so fast that they reached the place even before Jesus did.

When Jesus got to the place where He wanted to be alone and quiet with his Apostles, He found a large crowd of people waiting for Him.

Some people might have been rather cross at finding so many, but Jesus was never cross with them. He was only so sorry for them, because He knew how much they wanted to be taught about God, and how few teachers there were to help them.

You know how quickly the time goes when somebody is telling you a lovely story. You listen, and you forget all about how dark and how late it is ! Well, Jesus talked to all those people about God and His Kingdom, and told them many, many beautiful things, and they forgot even to be hungry. At last the evening began to creep on, and some of Jesus' Disciples came to Him and said : "Send the people away now into the villages and places to buy food, because they are hungry, and there is no food here for them."

But Jesus would not do that. He said :

## THE LOAVES AND FISHES

“No. They need not go away. You give them something to eat.”

How surprised they must have been, for there were five thousand people! They did not understand Jesus, so they said: “Shall we go and buy a lot of bread?”

Jesus said: “How many loaves have you? Go and see.”

So they went and found a boy who had five loaves and two fishes, and they came back and told Jesus.

He said, “Bring them to Me,” and then He told His Disciples to make the people sit down.

There was grass to sit on, and all the people sat down in tidy rows.

Then Jesus took those five loaves and two fishes, and He blessed them, and then He gave them to the Disciples and told them to give them to all the people.

Then a wonderful thing happened.

Not only was there so much bread and fish that every one of all those people had quite enough, but there was a great deal over. Now, Jesus doesn’t like to see anything wasted, so He told His Disciples to collect everything that was left. They took some baskets round and picked up all the bits: and how much do you think there was? Enough to fill twelve baskets!

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Nobody else could have fed five thousand people with so little, but Jesus can do everything.

If we remember that Jesus blessed the food, that will remind us to say our grace before our meals, won't it? Because we want to remember He gives us all our food, just as He gave it to all those people.

Then we can remember not to waste anything He gives us : food, or money, or time, or anything, because He does not like waste.

## XVIII

### JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA

IN the last story, you remember, it was evening when Jesus fed all those thousands of people? Well, when they had finished eating, and had had enough, Jesus sent them all away, and He told His Disciples, who, you remember, had brought Him in a boat across the sea, to leave Him and go back to the other side. Then He went up into a mountain to pray. Jesus often went into quiet places to pray ; I expect He had a great deal to say to His Father in Heaven, and He liked to be alone and very quiet.

## JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA

Now, His friends in the boat had done what He had told them, and had pushed off and started for the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When they were in the middle of the sea a storm got up, and the waves were very big and strong, and beat against the boat and frightened the Apostles dreadfully. The wind blew, the waves tossed them about, and it was very dark, for it was late.

Jesus saw them, and knew how frightened they were, so what do you think He did? He started off to walk to them on the sea. Now, His friends in the boat had never seen anyone walking on the sea before, and they were frightened. They did not understand how anyone could do such a thing, and they thought it could not be a real figure which they saw. But you and I know that Jesus can do lots and lots of things which no one else can do, don't we? But we must remember that you and I have known Jesus all our lives, and those men had only known Him a very short time. Well, when Jesus saw they were afraid of Him, He said :

“ Be not afraid. It is I.”

Now, one of the men in the boat was Peter, and when Jesus spoke, Peter asked Him if He would help him to walk across the water to meet Him, and Jesus said : “ Come.”

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So Peter climbed out of the ship and started off to meet Jesus ; I don't know how far he went, but suddenly he was very frightened of the storm and the wind, and as soon as he felt like that he began to sink. So he cried out : "Lord, save me." Then Jesus put out His hand and caught him, and asked him why he had not trusted Him. You see, if Peter had put the storm and wind right away from his mind, and thought only about Jesus, he could have walked all the way, because he did walk some of the way. It was only when he forgot to trust Jesus that he became frightened of the storm, and began to sink. Then the wind and the storm stopped at our Lord's command, and so they knew that Jesus was really God's Son. And you and I must trust Him, and not be frightened. Sometimes we start in the morning, and say our prayers very carefully and think how we can be good and unselfish and kind. That means that we are trying to be like Jesus. Then perhaps somebody wants us to do something which is not quite good, and we are afraid of them laughing at us if we say no. That means that we forget that Jesus can help us so much that we should not mind what they said. Then we are weak, and give in to them, and in the evening we ask Jesus, as Peter did, to help us, and

## JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA

it makes Him sad because we had not really trusted Him at first.

You see, Peter was trying to be like Jesus when he walked on the sea, and it was only when he began to be afraid of the waves that he began to sink, because he forgot that Jesus is stronger than any waves. So we must try always to be like Him, and remember that He will always help us if we ask Him.

## XIX

### JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN

ONE day Jesus was walking along and talking to the people. So many wanted to hear Him that He used to talk out in the open, so that everybody could hear.

This day He was walking along, and there were some Mummies, with their little babies, watching Him. Perhaps they thought He looked kind and gentle ; anyhow, they knew He was a very good Man, and they wanted Him to bless their little babies.

So they brought their babies to Him.

But His friends did not understand, and they thought the people and children would bother

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Him, so they turned them away and told the Mummies not to come near.

But Jesus heard, and He was very sorry, because He never likes His friends even to seem to be cross, or to send people away without doing anything for them. So He turned to the people near Him who were sending those Mummies and babies away, and He said : “ Let them come to Me, and don’t send them away, for little children belong to the Kingdom of God.”

He meant that He loved little babies, and so the Mummies were very glad, and hurried up to Him, some of them carrying their little babies and others leading theirs by the hand ; and when they came close to Jesus, He stooped down and picked the little ones up, and held them in his arms, and blessed them.

Think how proud those Mummies must have been ! They had heard about Jesus, and people had told them how good and kind He always was, and that He went about doing good ; and He had even troubled to stop and bless their little babies !

Supposing the King of England came to the place where you live. Wouldn’t you be proud if you were the little person chosen to open the door for him ? And especially if he spoke to you ? So think how proud those people must

## JESUS AND LITTLE CHILDREN

have been to feel that Jesus had spoken to them. Jesus loves little children, and it makes Him sad when they do not talk to Him.

He is never far away from you, though you cannot see Him ; but you know He takes care of you all day and all night, and you can talk to Him in your prayers, and thank Him, and tell Him you want to be good like Him, and that makes Him glad.

## XX

### THE TEN LEPERS

ONE day Jesus was going to Jerusalem, and on His way, as He went into a certain village, He saw ten men who were lepers, standing some way from Him. Now, lepers were people who had what is called leprosy ; that is, an illness which is very terrible. People who had leprosy were not allowed to go near people who were well. So they had very sad and lonely lives. Whenever they saw people coming they had to shout out to warn them not to come near them. Nowadays when people have leprosy they have special places to live in, and people to look after them properly and make them happy. But in

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

those days they had nowhere to go, and always had to move on if people came near them.

When the lepers saw Jesus coming, they shouted to Him. Perhaps they knew He could cure people. They must have known something of Him, for they called Him by His name, and said :

“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

Then Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests.

In those days, when there were no hospitals and doctors and nurses in every town, as there are now, the priests took the place of doctors.

They were the only people who could tell the poor lepers whether they still had leprosy, or whether they were cured.

No leper was allowed to go among his friends until the priest had told him he was quite well, and given him leave.

Just as when you have measles or whooping cough, the doctor is the only person who can tell you when you are quite well, and able to go to see your friends again.

So it was quite natural for these ten lepers to be told to go to show themselves to the priests.

But a very wonderful thing happened on the way ; for as they went they became quite well !

One of them, when he saw that he was well,

## THE TEN LEPERS

turned back, and went to Jesus, and fell on his face on the ground, and thanked Him.

But Jesus said : “ Were there not ten of you made well? Where are the nine? ”

He must have felt very sad, mustn’t He, that only one out of ten thought of thanking Him? Perhaps the others were so excited and happy at being well and able to go among other people again, that they forgot Who it was Who had done this wonderful thing for them! It seems very dreadful to us that they could forget to say “ Thank you, ” but, do you know, sometimes you and I forget just as badly? When we say our prayers, and ask God to take care of us and our friends, and to do all kinds of things ; and we don’t say “ Thank you ” for all the wonderful things He has done for us each day.

As we grow older, we find that we turn to God as soon as we are in trouble or anxiety very quickly, and ask Him to help us, just as those lepers did. But when the trouble is over, and happiness comes to us again, it is very easy to be so excited and happy that we forget to turn back to God, Who has answered our prayer, and to say “ Thank you. ”

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XXI

### BARTIMEUS

ONE day Jesus was outside a city called Jericho, and a great many people were with Him.

By the roadside sat a poor blind man, begging. It was the only way he could make money, you see, because in those days people had not learned how to teach blind men to work and earn money, as they do now. So they used to sit at the gates of towns and ask the people who passed by for money.

This blind man's name was Bartimeus.

Now, when Jesus and all His followers passed by, Bartimeus heard the tramp of their feet and the noise they made as they talked, and he asked what it meant. They told him that Jesus was going by. Now, he must have heard about Jesus, and how kind He was. Perhaps some of the ill people whom Jesus had made well had told Bartimeus. So he cried out to Jesus, and asked Him to be kind to him. But the crowd of people were cross with him, and told him to be quiet and not to bother Jesus. But Bartimeus would not listen to them; he

## BARTIMEUS

only cried out all the more, and asked Jesus to listen to him.

When Jesus heard him, He stopped, and told His friends to bring Bartimeus near Him. Then the people went to Bartimeus and said : “Jesus is calling you.”

When Bartimeus came near, Jesus asked him : “What do you want Me to do for you?” Bartimeus answered : “Lord, I want to see.” Then Jesus said, “Because you believe in Me, I will give you back your sight,” and at once Bartimeus was able to see !

Just think what that must have meant to Bartimeus ! After being in the dark, he could suddenly open his eyes and see all the people, and the sun and the sky ; and, best of all, the wonderful Teacher about Whom he had heard so much, Who was called Jesus. You see, Bartimeus had believed that if only he could tell Jesus how much he wanted to see, Jesus would make him able to see. And he was right !

So, to show how happy and glad he was, Bartimeus joined all those people who followed Jesus, and went about with Him from place to place.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XXII

### THE MAN WHO CLIMBED A TREE

ONE day Jesus was walking through a town called Jericho, and there was a great crowd of people following Him, all wanting to hear Him and see Him.

In Jericho there was a rich man called Zaccheus, who also wanted to see Jesus very much ; but he was so little that he couldn't see because of the crowd. So what do you think he did? He ran on in front of everybody and climbed into a sycamore tree, and then he looked down and saw Jesus.

When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said : "Zaccheus, make haste and come down, for I am coming to your house to-day!" Fancy how surprised Zaccheus must have been ! But he was very glad too, and he hurried home and made everything ready, and gave Jesus a real welcome.

But the people in the crowd did not like Jesus going to Zaccheus' house, because they said he was a naughty man, and Jesus ought not to go and see him. But Jesus went to

## THE MAN WHO CLIMBED A TREE

Zaccheus' house, and He talked to him, and told him that He had come to live in the world to help all the people who found it difficult to be good. We don't know very much about Zaccheus, but I expect he tried to be very good always after that.

Jesus taught Zaccheus, for He is always ready to help the people who find being good difficult. So when you and I know we have not been good, we can say a little prayer to Jesus and ask Him to help us next time—because people who once really love Jesus never want to be naughty any more.

## XXIII

### THE POOL OUTSIDE JERUSALEM

IN the days when Jesus lived there was a pool outside Jerusalem, where there was wonderful water.

It was at one of the gates into Jerusalem, called the Sheep Gate.

At a certain time in the year the water, we are told, was "troubled"; that is, it moved.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Perhaps it bubbled up out of a spring and had ripples in it, as water has when we throw stones into pools now.

And the first person who stepped into the pool afterwards was made well! So, of course, the ill people, and those who could not walk, or see, or hear, were taken to the pool, and there they waited until the water bubbled. Then think how anxious each one would be to be the first to step in, and how dreadfully sad many would be because they were not the first, and so they could not be made well! Some had waited a long, long while, and every time they tried to get into the pool someone else had pushed by them and got in first.

Well, one day, Jesus happened to be at the pool, just when the poor ill people were all waiting for the water to bubble.

He saw there a poor man lying on a bed, who had been ill for thirty-eight years, and Jesus knew that he was waiting to be cured in the pool. So He went up to him and asked, "Do you want to be well?" The poor man looked up, and said :

"Sir, I have nobody to put me into the water, so other people get there first."

You see, he could only move very slowly, and so was always too late.

Jesus told him to get up and take up his

## THE POOL OUTSIDE JERUSALEM

bed and walk ! And at once the man became quite well, and he got up and walked !

Now, the day that this happened was Saturday, their Holy day. Our Holy day is Sunday. Theirs was Saturday, and they called it the Sabbath, and on the Sabbath they did no work, and they thought it was very wrong if anyone broke this rule. Well, when they saw the poor man carrying his bed on this day, they went to him and told him it was not right for him to do so, because it was the Sabbath ; even though what he used as his bed was probably only a mat, or a kind of mattress. His friends would put him on something which would be easy for them to carry, you see, when they took him to the pool. Then he told them how the Man Who had cured him had told him to do this. Then the Jews asked him what Man it was Who had cured him, but he did not know, and by that time Jesus had gone away.

Later in the day Jesus found the poor man in the Temple, and He talked to him, and told him he must always try to be good, because he had been cured and made well again.

Then the man knew that it was Jesus Who had cured him, and he went and told the Jews. And the Jews, who, you remember, were always trying to prove that Jesus was doing wrong, tried to kill Him, because they said He

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

had done wrong in healing people on the Sabbath. For, they said, that was working. You see, they were very jealous of Him really, because the people followed Him and listened to Him. Later, we shall hear how they did hurt Him.

When Jesus taught the ill man, He told him he must always be good, because he had been made well again. Now, you and I are not all ill, are we? But Jesus has many ways of sending us things we want very much, and just as He sent that man his health, so He sends you and me our health, and our happy home, and our friends; everything which we have comes from Him.

Just because we have all these lovely presents from Him, we must always try to remember to be good.

# MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

## XXIV

### THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

*St. John ix.*

ONE Sabbath day as Jesus was walking with His Disciples, He saw a man who had been blind all his life. Jesus was sorry for him, and made a kind of clay, and put it on the man's eyes, and then told him to go and wash in a pool, which was called the Pool of Siloam.

So the man went and did what Jesus told him, and when he came back he could see !

Now, the people who knew this man and had lived near him could not understand how he had suddenly become able to see, and they said to each other : " Is not this the man who was blind, and used to sit by the road and beg ? " And others said : " He is like him. " But the man himself said : " I am he. "

Then they said to him : " How were your eyes opened ? " And he answered : " A Man that is called Jesus made clay and put it on my eyes, and said to me, ' Go to the Pool of Siloam and wash ' ; and I went and washed, and I could see ! "

Then they said to him : " Where is He ? "

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

But he said : “I know not.”

Now, you remember that there were certain people who were very jealous of Jesus and were always hoping to find Him doing wrong, because they wanted to kill Him, and they dared not do that without a reason.

The people who had been talking to the blind man took him to the Pharisees, and the Pharisees asked him just what the other people had asked. He told them how Jesus had just put clay upon his eyes, and he had washed and then was able to see. Then the Pharisees, remembering it was the Sabbath, and that they never allowed anybody to work on that day, said :

“This Man cannot be good, because He does not keep the Sabbath day.”

You see, they thought they could say He was wicked, just because He had made a blind man able to see on the Sabbath, and then, if they talked to the people, they might turn them against Jesus.

But the people did not all agree that He was bad, because they said :

“How can a bad man do such a miracle?”

The Pharisees did not really believe that the man had been blind, so they sent for his Father and Mother, and asked them if this man was really their blind son, and how his sight had

## MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

come back? The Father and Mother were afraid of the Jews; and they said yes, he was their son, but they did not know how his sight had come back. Then the Jews asked their son a lot more questions, and he said of Jesus: "I do not know if He is good or bad, but I know I was blind, and now I can see."

Then, when the Jews had asked him still more questions, the man turned and told them what he thought. This was that they knew as well as he did that no one but God could give people back their sight if they had been blind always, so that, of course, Jesus was God, and was good.

Then the Pharisees were very angry with the man, because they did not like anybody teaching them. They liked to do the teaching themselves. Perhaps they knew that the man was really right, but they did not want to believe it.

So they turned him out of the Synagogue—that is, out of the Jews' church.

Jesus heard what they had done, and when He had found the man, He asked him if he believed about God's Son. The man asked Jesus who God's Son was, because he wanted to believe about Him. Then Jesus told him that He Himself was God's Son.

And the man believed what Jesus told him.

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Now, that man knew that the Jews wanted to find Jesus doing wrong, and that they and the Pharisees had said if anyone said they believed Jesus they would be turned out of the Synagogue. That was a very dreadful thing to happen, and would mean that they would be in disgrace.

That was why the man's Father and Mother were afraid of the Jews. Yet, though he knew he would be turned out for daring to say he believed Jesus was good, he did not care. He knew he was right, and he said what he believed; and they turned him out of the Synagogue.

So, when you and I hear anything that is not what Jesus would like to hear being said, and we know that people will laugh at us or be unkind to us if we stand up for what we believe to be right, then we are doing what that man did—standing up for Jesus.

# LAZARUS

## XXV

### LAZARUS

AMONG the many people who loved Jesus there were two sisters called Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus.

Jesus loved them too. They lived in a village called Bethany, and Jesus used sometimes to stay with them. One day when Jesus was away, preaching and talking to the people, the sisters sent a message to tell Him that Lazarus was very ill.

So Jesus said to His Disciples :

“ Let us go into Judæa again.”

Judæa was the name of the country in which Bethany was.

Now, His friends did not want Him to go there, for when He went before the Jews had tried to throw stones at Him, and they were afraid He might be hurt if He went again.

But when Jesus said He was going to see Lazarus, one of the Disciples, called Thomas, said :

“ Let us go also, that we may die with Him.”

He meant that if the Jews tried to kill Jesus, His Disciples would not leave Him.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

So they went to Bethany.

The journey lasted several days, because they had to walk all the way. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary sat still in the house.

Martha said to Jesus that if only He had been there, Lazarus would not have died ; and Jesus comforted her and told her Lazarus would live again.

Then Mary came out and met Him, and said the same as her sister.

Jesus asked them where Lazarus was ; and they took Him to the cave where they had put him, and a stone was laid upon it.

Then Jesus told them to take away the stone ; and He spoke to God in a prayer, and then He said :

“ Lazarus, come forth ”—that is, “ come out.”

And Lazarus came out, alive again.

How happy Martha and Mary must have been to have their brother with them again ! Only Jesus could have given him back his life.

Many of the people who had been with Mary and Martha in their trouble saw the miracle, and believed on Jesus. But some of them went and told the Pharisees what Jesus had done. Then the Pharisees had a meeting, and tried to decide how they could kill Jesus, for

## LAZARUS

they said, “If we leave Him alone, all the people will believe in Him,” and they were jealous.

So Jesus had to go into the country away from all these Jews ; and He took His Disciples with Him.

You see, Jesus takes so much trouble for His friends, doesn’t He? and for everybody else as well.

That time He did three things, which we can remember.

First, He travelled several days to get to Lazarus.

Then He went to a place which was dangerous, because the people had once stoned Him there. But that did not stop Him helping His friends.

And when He arrived there He did something very wonderful, which only He could do, to help all the people to believe about God. For only God can give people back their lives.

So to be like Jesus we must always be ready to take trouble for our friends, and spend time and thought on them, and, even when things are very uncomfortable, not be put off from helping them.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XXVI

### JESUS RIDING INTO JERUSALEM

ONE day Jesus was going to Jerusalem. He was walking, as He always did when He went from place to place—for you remember there were no trains or trams in those days. Jesus generally had very many people with Him; some were His Disciples; those were His friends who followed Him everywhere and took care of Him and did His messages for Him; and others were people who wanted to hear Him preach and teach. These people came out of the villages as He went through, hoping to hear some of the wonderful stories He told, or to see the miracles by which He cured people who were ill.

Well, this time, He was not very far from Jerusalem, near a village called Bethany; and He turned to two of His Disciples and said :

“ Go into the village of Bethany, and you will find a colt tied; loose him and bring him to Me, and if any man says, ‘ Why do you loose him?’ you must say, ‘ Because the Lord wants him’; and he will let you have him.”

So the Disciples went and did what Jesus

## JESUS RIDING INTO JERUSALEM

had said, and found the colt, tied. As they were untying him, the people to whom he belonged said: "Why are you untying the colt?" and the Disciples said just what Jesus had told them, and the owners said no more, but let them go. Then the Disciples spread their clothes on the back of the colt, and Jesus rode on him. You see, they wanted to show Jesus how much they loved Him, and that they thought nothing was too good for Him. When a King or any great person now goes in a procession there is very often a grand red carpet for him to walk on, and a carriage decorated with beautiful trimmings for him to drive in, isn't there? Well, Jesus had no red carpet and no grand carriage, so the people spread their clothes on the road for Him to walk upon instead, and they cut branches from the trees and put them in the way, too. Then they shouted: "Hosanna! Hosanna!" which was their way of saying: "Hurrah! Hurrah!" to show how pleased they were that He had come into Jerusalem.

When He was come into Jerusalem, the people there heard all the cheering and wondered what was happening, and said: "Who is this?" Some people in the crowd replied: "This is Jesus, from Nazareth."

Now, you must remember this story very

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

specially. It happened on Palm Sunday—that is, the Sunday before Easter Day—and a very great deal happened in that week. Those very people who seemed so delighted to see Jesus, and made such a welcome for Him, later turned from being His friends to being His enemies. He knew on that Palm Sunday everything that was going to happen, and He knew that the people were going to kill Him. Nobody else knew what He knew, though, and it made Him very sad.

That evening He went out to the village of Bethany with His twelve Apostles and spent the night there. And the following day He came back to Jerusalem; and the next story will tell you what happened then.

## XXVII

### THE LAST SUPPER

*St. Luke xxii.*

Do you remember when Jesus was a boy that He went to Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary to keep the Feast of the Passover? That was a special feast, which the Jews kept every year. When Jesus was thirty-three years old, He

## THE LAST SUPPER

was in Jerusalem, and the Feast of the Passover was near. He told two of His friends, Peter and John, to go and make the Passover ready for Him to eat. They asked Him where He wanted them to go. He told them to go into Jerusalem, and as they went they would meet a man carrying a pitcher—that is, a pot—of water, and they were to follow him into the house he went to. Then they were to say to the man who owned the house, “The Master says to you, Where is the guest chamber where I shall eat the Passover with My Disciples?” and he would show them a large room upstairs, furnished. There they were to make ready for Jesus.

His Disciples went away, and found what Jesus had said, and they made ready the Supper for Him.

In the evening Jesus came, and He and His twelve Apostles had Supper together. As they sat and ate, Jesus told them that one of those who were there was going to betray Him—that is, be a false friend. Then they all began to be very sad, and each one asked Him: “Is it I?” and Jesus said: “It is one of the twelve.”

Now, at that Supper they had bread to eat and wine to drink, and Jesus gave it to them, after He had blessed it. It was the last time

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

He had Supper with them before His crucifixion, and He knew that very soon He was going to die. So it was a very solemn time, and one which all those who were with Him would always remember. Some day, when you are older, you will learn a great deal about Jesus' Last Supper before He was crucified ; and you will be able to share in it even in this world, because Jesus' friends still do what He taught them at the Last Supper to do. They have a very beautiful service now in the early morning to which His friends still go, and eat bread that has been blessed, and drink wine that has been blessed, and remember Jesus and all that He has done for them. Some day you will go too, when you have learned more about it all, and, till then, will you try and remember how and when Jesus started it?

After they had finished that Supper, Jesus and His friends sang a hymn, and then went out to a place called the Mount of Olives.

## JUDAS

### XXVIII

#### JUDAS

THERE was among Jesus' friends a man called Judas. He was one of the twelve Apostles, and he was with Jesus a great deal.

Now, Judas was not a real friend, because he loved something more than he loved Jesus, and that was money. He liked to have money better than anything, and he was ready to sell even Jesus for money.

Well, Judas knew that the leaders of the people in Jerusalem, who were called scribes and elders, wanted to kill Jesus, because they were jealous of Him. You see, everybody came to hear Jesus, and followed Him, and, as they knew Him better, they began to love Him. The scribes and teachers could not win the people as He did, so they were always trying to find some reason why they should kill Him. It was very difficult, because, you see, Jesus never did anything wrong.

Now, Judas went to these men one day, and told them he knew where Jesus would be that night, and he promised to show them where He was so that they might take Him and kill Him,

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

if they would give him, Judas, some money. And those wicked men were very glad, so they promised to give Judas plenty of money if he would tell them where they might find Jesus. You see, they dared not take Him on the day of the feast, because they were afraid of the people. There would be so many about who loved Jesus, and would not allow Him to be killed.

There was a beautiful garden called Gethsemane, where Jesus used often to go with His friends, and Judas knew He would be there that night. He was quite right, for Jesus had been there praying to God, with some of His Disciples. The Chief Priests had sent a great number of soldiers carrying lanterns and torches and swords, and they were told to follow Judas and to take Jesus prisoner. Now, they did not know which Jesus was, so Judas said to them :

“Whoever I kiss, that is Jesus; take Him and lead Him away safely.”

Judas went up to Jesus and kissed Him, and at once the soldiers came and bound Him and took Him prisoner.

How sad poor Jesus must have been that one of His own friends had pretended he loved Him, when his kiss was really only a sign that he was selling Him. The friends of Jesus were

## JUDAS

angry, and one of them, called Peter, drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers who had taken Jesus ; but Jesus was kind even then and touched the soldier's ear and made it well. Fancy being so good to people who were His enemies. When people hurt you and me, we ought to think how Jesus behaved, and to do kind things even then.

Then the soldiers took Jesus, bound, to the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas ; and there, with him, were seated all the other priests and teachers, ready to judge Jesus.

The next stories will tell you what they did.

## XXIX

### PETER

AMONG Jesus' friends in the garden of Gethsemane, on the night that He was taken away by the soldiers, was Peter. Peter was once a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee, and had given up his fishing to follow Jesus and to be one of His friends ; and he loved Jesus very much.

Jesus had been talking to His friends, and

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

telling them something very strange which was going to happen.

He said that, before many hours were gone by, those very Disciples would forsake Him—that is, leave Him alone—and would pretend they did not know Him.

This made them very sad, because they all loved Him very much and could not believe that anything could make them forsake Him.

Peter said :

“ Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison, or to die.”

But Jesus said :

“ Peter, before the cock crows, you will have said you do not know Me three times.”

But Peter did not believe that such a thing could happen, and he answered that if everyone else left Jesus, he would not.

Then Jesus spent a long time in the Garden praying to God, and He took with Him Peter and James and John.

Now, when the soldiers took Our Lord, which we heard about in the last story, all Jesus' friends turned and ran away, except two, and one of these was Peter. Perhaps they knew that He would be killed, and they were afraid if the soldiers found out that they were His friends they might be hurt too.

So Jesus was left alone, as He had said.

## PETER

Peter followed a long way off ; and when Jesus went into the High Priest's palace, he went in too, and sat by a fire and warmed himself, for it was night, and very cold. Now, Peter hoped nobody would think he was one of Jesus' friends, and yet he wanted to know what was going to happen, for he really loved Jesus, though he was not yet brave enough to suffer for Him ; but he did later in his life. While he sat there, a girl who looked after the door, came up to him and said :

“ Are you one of this Man's friends ? ” And Peter said :

“ I am not.”

A little later someone else came and asked him the same thing, and again Peter said : “ No.” Then a friend of the man whose ear Peter had cut off in the Garden came up and said :

“ Did I not see you in the Garden with Him ? ”

Peter said “ No ” again, and this time he was very angry, and perhaps frightened too. Just at that moment a cock began to crow, and Jesus turned round and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said—that before the cock crew, Peter would three times say he did not know Him.

And Peter went out and wept.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Poor Peter! You see, he was not really ready to suffer for Jesus. Yet he loved Him so much. It is a very sad story, but it became happier later, for Peter was very different afterwards, and he spent all the rest of his life going about preaching and teaching about Jesus, and doing good.

He wrote some wonderful letters, which some day you will read, and he never stopped working for Jesus. And when he was old, he gave his life for Jesus.

So now we call him Saint Peter, because he was a holy man and a friend of Jesus.

### XXX

### PILATE

You remember that Jesus was taken prisoner at night, when it was dark, and taken to the palace of the High Priest. There He was asked many questions, but He was very quiet, and answered very little.

When the morning came, the men who were judging Him had a meeting together to try and decide what to do with Jesus.

## PILATE

And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and gave Him to Pontius Pilate.

Now, Pilate was a very important person ; he was the Governor of the country, and he decided who went to prison, and who was to be punished, and everybody had to do what he said.

But though Pilate was an important person, he was a very weak man, because he was afraid of doing anything the people did not like, even when he knew he was right and the people wrong.

When Jesus was brought to him, he began asking Him questions, but he could not make Jesus answer ; and Pilate was very surprised.

Now, there was a certain rule at Jerusalem when all the people came to keep the Feast of the Passover. It was this : that the people might choose one man who was a prisoner to be released—that is, to be made free, and allowed to go about like other people.

When Pilate found that Jesus answered nothing, and he could not find what wrong He had done, he did not know what to do. Then he thought of a way out of the difficulty. He remembered the rule about letting a prisoner go free, and he thought he would try and make the people ask for Jesus this time.

That year there was a special prisoner who was a robber, called Barabbas. So Pilate went

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

to the people and asked them which of the two prisoners, Jesus or Barabbas, they would choose?

But they all shouted out : “ Barabbas.”

Just then Pilate’s wife sent a messenger to him, and she said that she had had a dream about Jesus, and she told Pilate he must not have anything to do with Him, for she knew that He was a good Man.

Then Pilate tried again to save Jesus.

But the Chief Priests and their friends had been talking to the people, and making them angry with Jesus ; and when Pilate came to them again they would not listen to him.

They shouted out : “ Crucify Him ! Crucify Him !”

Pilate said : “ Why ? What wrong has He done ?”

But the people were too excited to think whether they were behaving rightly, and they only cried out the more : “ Crucify Him !”

Then, when Pilate found that they would not listen, and that they were getting angry, he was afraid, and he dared not try to save Jesus any more.

So he allowed Barabbas to go free, and when Jesus had been beaten, Pilate gave Him to the cruel Roman soldiers to be crucified.

In the next story you will hear what they did.

# HOW JESUS SUFFERED

## XXXI

### HOW JESUS SUFFERED

PILATE took Jesus and scourged Him—that is, beat Him—with a cruel kind of whip, and the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe—purple was the colour Kings wore, and, though they did not believe He was really a King, they did this to try and make Him angry. So they said, “Hail, King of the Jews,” and hit Him with their hands.

Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

By that time Jesus was very tired ; the cruel soldiers had hurt Him, and they made Him carry a very heavy wooden cross. He was to go to a hill called Calvary, outside Jerusalem. On the way they met a man called Simon, coming into Jerusalem from the country, and they made him carry the cross for Jesus.

There followed Him a great number of people, and many were very sad, and wept as they saw Jesus, Whom they loved, being treated so cruelly by the Roman soldiers. There were two men with Him to be crucified too.

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

They had really done wrong, and deserved to be punished. But Jesus had never done wrong, or even said an unkind word, had He?

When they came to the place which is called Calvary, they put Jesus on to the cross. Most people were tied on with cord, but they wanted to be very cruel to Jesus, so they drove nails through His poor Hands and Feet, and then put the end of the cross into a hole in the ground and raised it up, and watched Him die.

The two other men, who were thieves, were put on to their crosses on each side of Him. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the Cross of Jesus. The writing was : “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” All this time Jesus had never once complained, or said anything unkind to the soldiers.

How often you and I when we suffer very little unkindness or pain call out, and are angry ! We say we have so much to bear that we cannot help saying such things ; but Jesus had a great deal more to bear than we ever have. For He had cruelty and pain, as well as unkind, wicked things said to Him, and He was never even impatient !

The next story will tell you what He said while He was on the cross—for He hung there for three long hours before He died.

## THE CROSS

### XXXII

#### THE CROSS

As Jesus hung on the cross the Roman soldiers stood or sat round and watched Him, and said cruel things even then. But Jesus was thinking how He could help them, and not hurt them. He prayed out loud to God, and asked Him to forgive them for all the wicked things they had done, because, He said, they did not really know how wicked they had been.

One of the two thieves began to mock Jesus and ask Him why He did not save Himself when He could do so much for other people. But the other thief told him not to talk like that, for he knew that Jesus was God, and that He had never done anything wrong. Jesus told that thief that after he had died he should go to Paradise and be with Him.

Among those who watched Him were some of those who loved Him very dearly—His own Mother, and Mary Magdalene, and another Mary, and John.

When Jesus saw His Mother and John standing by, whom He loved, He spoke to her, and told her that John would be a son to her when

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

He was gone ; and then He told John to take care of her ; and so John took her to his own home.

So, you see, all the time Jesus was thinking how He could do things for other people—first for the Roman soldiers, then for the thief, and then for His Mother.

After three long hours Jesus died.

There was a man named Joseph who was good, and had not agreed with the people who killed Jesus, for he believed Jesus was God.

This man went to Pilate, and asked if he might have Jesus' Body, and Pilate gave the Body to Joseph. Joseph took it, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a new sepulchre—that is, a sort of cave made in a rock, where people used to bury their dead.

The women who loved Jesus followed and saw what Joseph had done, and they were very glad to think that somebody loved Him and cared for His Body.

Then the Chief Priests went and made the sepulchre very safe, and put a great stone in front of it. You see, they had heard Him say He would rise again in three days, and though they pretended they did not believe He could, they wanted to do everything they could to keep His Body safe.

Now every year we remember the story of

## THE CROSS

Jesus' Death on the day we call Good Friday. In most churches the clergyman has a service which begins at twelve o'clock and lasts three hours, just about the time Jesus was on the cross. Some day, when you are older, you will like to go to that service, and think of what Jesus did for you and me all those years ago.

## XXXIII

### EASTER DAY

THEN, very early in the morning the first day of the week, the day we call Easter Day, when it was still dark, the women who loved Jesus came to the sepulchre, expecting to find Jesus' Body.

But they said among themselves :

“ Who shall roll the stone away from the door for us? ”

You remember the Chief Priests had had a very big stone put there, and the women knew they would not be able to move it.

But when they came to the sepulchre something very wonderful had happened. There had been a great earthquake, and an Angel had

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

come down from Heaven, and had rolled back the stone, and was sitting upon it !

Then the women were afraid, but the Angel said to them :

“ Be not afraid ; for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here : for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay, and go quickly and tell His friends.”

Then they went and found the eleven Apostles. You remember there used to be twelve, but when Judas found that Jesus was to be crucified, he went and killed himself, so then there were only eleven.

The women told them all the Angel had said. But the Apostles found it hard to believe them. So Peter and John ran to the sepulchre to see if it were really true, and John arrived first ; and when they looked in they saw the clothes in which Jesus' Body had been wrapped laid there, but no Jesus.

Then the Apostles went away again to their own homes.

But Mary Magdalene stood outside the sepulchre weeping ; and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the sepulchre, and she saw two Angels in white sitting there, where the Body of Jesus had lain. They asked her why she was weeping, and she said to them :

## EASTER DAY

“ Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.”

When she had said this, she turned and saw Someone standing by her, Who asked her why she was weeping and for Whom she was looking. Mary, thinking He was the gardener, said to Him :

“ Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him?”

And He said : “ Mary !”

Then she knew it was Jesus Who spoke, and that He had really risen again as He had said.

And she said : “ Master !”

Then Jesus said :

“ Touch me not ;” and He told her He had not yet been to Heaven to His Father ; but He wanted her to go and tell His Disciples that He was going up to Heaven to see His Father and their Father.

So Mary came and told the Disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

On Easter Day we are all very happy, and our churches are decorated with flowers, and we go to the services and sing beautiful hymns and thank Jesus for all He has done for us, and especially we remember on that day the story I have just told you.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XXXIV

### JESUS AND HIS MESSENGERS

THE same evening that Jesus had spoken to Mary the Apostles were in a room all together. They had fastened the door, because they were afraid of the Jews, who were still angry about Jesus, and did not like the people to love Him.

While they were there, Jesus came to them. He had not come through the door, because it was locked. But you see Jesus is God, and He can be everywhere, so doors don't matter to Him.

How surprised His friends must have been to see Him, and how happy too. Perhaps they could hardly believe it really was Jesus. But when He showed them His Hands and His Feet, with the marks the nails had made in them, they knew it really was Jesus Who had come.

Then Jesus told them He wanted them to go into the world, to tell the people who had never heard of God about Him, and that He would help them.

Later, after Jesus had gone to Heaven to live

## JESUS AND HIS MESSENGERS

with His Father, those Apostles did what He told them, and spent all their lives teaching about Jesus.

And as they grew old, they told others how to do the same, and so at last a very great many people were going about the world teaching people about Jesus.

You have heard of missionaries, who go far away to other countries, and teach all kinds of people about God? Well, they are doing what Jesus told those Apostles to do, and He wants you and me to do the same.

How do you think we can do it?

We cannot all go away from home, though some of us can do that when we grow older.

But we can all do a little bit, and I will tell you three ways in which we can help. First, we can ask God in our prayers to bless the missionaries, and to help us to be missionaries ourselves. You know, there are a great many people here, quite close to where you live, who don't know nearly so much about Jesus as you do. So you can tell them about Him, and the wonderful things He did. Then you will be doing what He told His Apostles to do.

Secondly, you can have a money-box, especially for the missionaries. Next time you go to church ask the clergyman if he will give you one. In that money-box you can put some

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

of your own pennies, and ask your friends to put some in too. Then, when you have collected many pennies, give them to your clergyman, and they will help to pay for the journey and house and food for one of the splendid men who go far away from home, and become missionaries.

Thirdly, you can tell your friends about missions. Sometimes you may hear people say they don't like missionaries or their meetings. But that is because they do not understand. Perhaps their Mummies did not teach them about Jesus when they were little. Then you will be able to explain to them why we help the missionaries, because Jesus told His friends to go and preach about Him ; and He is our God, and our King, so we try to do what He tells us.

# THOMAS

## XXXV

### THOMAS

WHEN Jesus came to see His Apostles for the first time after His Death, one of them was not there. His name was Thomas.

The others said to him, when they saw him, that they had seen Jesus. But Thomas told them he did not believe them; and that he would not believe Jesus had really been seen unless he could see the marks of the nails in His Hands and His Feet.

Eight days later they were again together, and this time Thomas was with them; and the doors were shut.

Again Jesus came to them.

And Jesus showed Thomas His Hands and His Feet, and at last Thomas really believed it was He.

Forty days went by after Jesus' Death before He went to Heaven to live with His Father. The next story will be about another time when He appeared to His friends.

# A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

## XXXVI

### THE WALK TO EMMAUS

ON that first Easter Day two of the Disciples walked from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. They talked, as they went, of all the wonderful things which had been happening.

As they were talking, another Man joined them, and walked with them ; and He asked them what they were talking about, and why they were sad? Then one of the Disciples asked Him if He was a Stranger in Jerusalem? For everybody in Jerusalem was talking about Jesus and His Death, and he could not believe this Man really had not heard about it. The Stranger asked them to tell Him about it. So they told Him all the story of Jesus, and how He had been cruelly treated and then crucified, and how the women had been to look for His Body that very morning, and had not found it. And they were sad, because they did not understand where He was, for they loved Jesus very much.

Then the Stranger began to tell them a great

## THE WALK TO EMMAUS

many things about Jesus. How surprised they must have been that He knew so much !

They did not know Who He was, but He was Jesus Himself.

Then, when they came to Emmaus, they asked the Stranger to stay with them there ; and He did so.

As He sat at supper with them, He took the bread, and blessed it, and gave it to them. And as He did so, they suddenly knew that the Stranger was really Jesus ! And at once Jesus vanished from their sight.

## XXXVII

### THE ASCENSION

AFTER this, Jesus appeared many times to His friends, and talked with them. There were many things He wanted them to know before He went to Heaven. And then, one day, they saw Him for the last time.

He came to them, and led them out from Jerusalem to a place called Olivet. And while they were watching Him, He was parted from them, and taken up into Heaven.

This is called His Ascension, which means

## A BABY'S LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

**His Going Up.** By that time His friends had learned not only to love Him, but to worship Him. They understood now why He had come to live on Earth and to die that cruel Death on the Cross, and what He wanted them to do when He was gone.

After the clouds had hidden Him from their sight, they went back to Jerusalem full of joy, and were often in the temple praising and blessing God.

Some day, when you are older, you will learn much more about Jesus and all His wonderful teaching.

But what you and I must never forget is that He lived down here in this world to show us that little boys and little girls, as well as older people, should be like Him, good and loving and unselfish.

Though we cannot see Him any longer, He is always near us, and He speaks to us, and we can speak to Him. When we are tempted to be cross or disobedient His Holy Spirit speaks in our hearts and says, "Oh, don't be like that!" And when we let someone else have the nice things first, and give way to them, He says, "Well done."

So He does not leave us to try all alone, but is always with us to help us, when we are ill, and when we are well and all through our life.

## THE ASCENSION

And He has given us His Church, that we may grow up as God's dear children, loving all that is good and beautiful, and fighting against all that is naughty and bad.

Some children think that Heaven must be a long way off, but if He is always so near to us it cannot be very far away.

I believe that we can have Heaven in our hearts, if only we will let Jesus fill them with love and kindness.









